

CONCESSIONS WOULD ACCRUE TO CUBA

Manuel Rionda Testifies Regarding Sugar Before Senate Committee.

THE TRUST NOT IN CONTROL

Firm Represented by Witness Bought One-Quarter of Last Year's Crop—Prices Governed by Beet Sugar—Other Witnesses Heard.

Manuel Rionda, of the firm of Cernikow, MacDougal & Co., of New York and London, sugar brokers, was a witness yesterday before the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Relations with Cuba investigating the ownership of Cuban sugar and sugar lands.

Replying to questions by Senator Platt the witness said his firm last year had handled approximately one-quarter of the Cuban sugar crop—in fact 124,412 tons. The total sales of all kinds of sugar made by his firm last year were \$71,479,000.

The independent refiners had purchased more of his firm last year than had the trust. From January 1 last to May 2, the trust had taken from them 4,800 tons of Cuban sugar.

The capacity of the independent refineries in the United States, Mr. Rionda said, was about 550,000 tons a year, the "barbed" being the largest.

As to what fixed the price of Cuban sugar, he asserted, it was dependent almost entirely upon the price of beet sugar. It was a natural law that the largest producer fixed the price, and as Germany was the largest producer in the world, Germany was looked to for quotations.

Governed by Beet Sugar.

Cuban sugar was usually on a parity with the world's price of beet, he said, and the variation was usually due to an oversupply of raw sugar at the port of arrival, where the owner sometimes shaded his prices rather than store it. Unshipped Cuban sugar never fell below parity with beet sugar.

Senator Platt asked what the effect would be on the price of Cuban sugar if the United States reduced the duty. The witness replied that it would enhance the value of the sugar to the Cubans just as much as the duty was reduced.

At the request of the committee he went into details and demonstrated by figures that no other result could be reached. The trust, he said, could not control the price, because if it declined to buy the sugar at ruling prices the independent refiners would purchase it. He also showed that even if the latter combined with the trust to squeeze the Cubans, the Cubans would benefit by not only the reduction but the rise in beet sugar, which would surely come with the buying of 200,000 tons or more of beet to replace the Cuban crop.

Mr. Rionda stated that the next four or five months are the greatest ones for the sugar crop, and the smallest production. The refiners do not keep on hand any large stock and they must have raw sugar to meet the demand. The trust, he said, would not attempt to buy the sugar if they were to decline to buy the sugar they must buy beet sugar in Europe to replace the Cuban sugar. The demand for beet would increase the price of sugar all over the world. On the other hand the Cubans, he said, could easily hold their sugar, knowing that eventually they would obtain better prices for their product.

Disastrous to Cubans.

Asked what the effect in Cuba would be if Congress refused to grant a tariff concession, Mr. Rionda said emphatically it would be very disastrous, because those who had advanced money on the crop in the expectation that sugar would bring at least one and a half cents a pound would immediately call in their loans and the crop would be sold at a loss. The Cubans were financially weak and would be forced to sell. The result would be a panic.

George E. Bryson, the next witness, said he had been a newspaper correspondent in Cuba for seven years, and had for a time published a paper in Havana.

After giving the names of the principal sugar plantations in Cuba which according to report were owned by American corporations, Mr. Bryson said there were in addition about 100 smaller plantations owned by Americans, individually, naturalized and native. Fifty per cent of the entire sugar crop of the island, he estimated, was produced on plantations owned by Americans or American corporations, and at least 20 per cent on plantations owned or controlled by Spaniards, leaving but 30 per cent of the output to the Cubans.

Examined by Senator Platt, Mr. Bryson said he knew of but one large plantation in the island owned by Cuban citizens. He acknowledged that many of the Cuban owners had taken out American naturalization papers in order to protect themselves, and that they might receive allegiance to the United States and the Cuban constitution became effective. In fact, he knew of some who had already done so.

His information as to the citizenship of plantation owners and the output of the plantations, he confessed, was largely circumstantial and general. Pressed for more specific statements regarding the sources of his information, Mr. Bryson said he knew it just as well as he knew the Maine was blown up by the Spaniards.

AMERICAN NOT SO WISE

"But," said Senator Platt, "the Americans who have taken out American naturalization papers in order to protect themselves, and that they might receive allegiance to the United States and the Cuban constitution became effective. In fact, he knew of some who had already done so."

The committee adjourned until next week.

CONFERENCE AT WHITE HOUSE

Conditions at Port Chalmette Believed to Have Been Discussed.

Secretary of State Hay and Attorney General Knox called at the White House last night and had a consultation with the President for two hours.

It is believed that the conference was in regard to the report of Colonel Crowder, who was sent to investigate conditions at the British military camp at Port Chalmette, La.

Neither the Secretary of State nor the Attorney General would make any statement as to the subjects under discussion.

COLLEAGUES TO HONOR REPRESENTATIVE OTEY

House District Committee, in Respect to His Memory, to Hold No Meeting Today.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative Peter J. Otey, of Virginia, there will be no meeting this morning of the House District Committee, of which Mr. Otey was a faithful and hard working member.

Several members of the District Committee will accompany the committee appointed to attend the funeral, which takes place today at Lynchburg, Va., the home of the deceased statesman. The funeral committee will leave over the Southern Railroad at 9 o'clock a. m. on a special. They will return at 11:30 to-night.

MR. M'MILLAN'S TAX PLAN FAVORED BY COMMITTEE

Amendment to District Appropriation Bill Agreed To.

EQUITABLE DIVISION OF EXPENSES

United States and District to Share Equally Cost of Conducting Excise Board and Extension of Streets—Other Important Changes.

The Senate District Committee had a meeting yesterday and discussed the personal tax question. The committee reported favorably to the Senate the amendment introduced by Mr. McMillan on Tuesday, engrafting the Senate personal tax bill on the District appropriation bill. A number of other amendments were considered and later introduced by Mr. McMillan.

An amendment of much importance regarding the excise board was introduced. It provides that the salaries of the board shall be paid hereafter by the District and the United States as other expenses are divided. Heretofore these salaries have been paid out of the license collected. This has been one of the few instances in which the Federal Government has not shared the payment of District expenditures.

In the same line and marking a departure from present practice an amendment to the appropriation bill provides that \$2,500 for carrying on the work of street extension shall be paid equally by the United States and the District of Columbia. Congress has heretofore compelled the District to pay all of such expenses.

Another amendment provides that the Treasury Department shall hereafter furnish to the District authorities particulars of all expenditures made for the District. A few such expenditures have been made out of the Treasury heretofore without notifying the District officers.

PARK COMMISSION PLANS ILLUSTRATED

Mr. Moore Delivers Lecture to Brookland Citizens.

Opposes Placing Municipal Building on Power House Site and Suggests Center Market Site.

Mr. Charles Moore, clerk of the Senate District Committee, at the invitation of the Brookland Citizens' Association delivered his illustrated lecture on the plans of the Park Commission last night in the Town Hall at Brookland. The occasion was the regular monthly meeting of the association, but routine business was suspended, and the hall was comfortably filled with the residents of Brookland to hear the lecture.

Mr. Moore prefaced his lecture by stating how the larger improvement of Washington, resulting in the appointment of the Park Commission, had its inception. He attributed the beginning of the project to the Board of Trade and by the Washington Board of Trade and the Department of Architecture at their meeting in this city in 1900. The placing of these suggestions before the Senate District Committee led to the appointment of the Park Commission, which was a body of experts of national reputation.

Basis of Plans. Stating that the work of the commission was based upon the original plans of Washington and L'Enfant, Mr. Moore endeavored to explain carefully and in detail the fifty views thrown upon a stereoscope. The plans both for the main improvement and the parks on the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and in the suburban sections were described.

Mr. Moore is hopeful that the several projects of improvement will be begun immediately and carried on to completion within the next twenty-five or thirty years. He expressed the opinion that substantial progress would be made within five years, pointing out that the Lincoln memorial, the Grant statue, the Agricultural building, the new National Museum and the building for the State Department and the Department of Justice were already begun, all being essential parts of the plan.

The Municipal Building. Mr. Moore delighted his auditors by declaring that the proposed municipal building was now assured. He stated that the appropriation made by the "omnibus bill," \$1,500,000, would be about one-half enough to complete the structure. Mr. Moore also criticized the idea of locating the building on the "power house site," stating that the proper place for it is where the Center Market now stands, and intimating that the Senate District Committee might advance the proposition of removing the market to another site, and of appropriating the square midway between the Capitol and White House for the City Hall.

Mr. Moore declared that to be the logical solution of the problem of locating the municipal building, and he expressed the hope that it would finally prevail.

WANTS TO COME TO CONGRESS

General Seth Aspires to Represent First Maryland District.

EASTON, Md., May 7.—The "Eastern Leader" announces the candidacy of Gen. Joseph Bruff Seth, of Talbot county, for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the first district.

It is believed General Seth will receive the unanimous support of the county Democracy. He has law offices in Easton and Baltimore, being in the firm of Seth & Wilson, of Easton, and having as his partner in Baltimore Mr. Harry E. Mann. General Seth has served several times in the Maryland House of Delegates—most term as speaker. He has four years at the head of the State oyster police force, and was on the staff of Governor Jackson. He is a native of Talbot county, and a descendant of Jacobus Seth, an early Scotch immigrant.

MR. BABCOCK NAMES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Will Again Conduct Republican Congressional Campaign.

Names Only Members of House to Assist Him—Senators Replaced by Representatives on Committee.

Representative J. W. Babcock of Wisconsin, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, yesterday settled the question of his serving at the head of that organization for the fourth time in the approaching campaign. He will again conduct its affairs.

Yesterday he authorized Representative Jesse Overstreet of Indiana, secretary of the committee, to make public his selection of the executive committee, which is as follows:

John A. T. Hull, of Iowa; Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois; David B. Mercer, of Nebraska; H. C. Lousenberger, of New Jersey; C. A. Russell, of Connecticut; J. C. Lovering, of Massachusetts; William Connell, of Pennsylvania; Victor B. Metcalf, of California, and E. C. Burleigh, of Maine.

The executive committee this year consists of members of the House entirely. The first six above named served on the executive committee two years ago, and the last three succeeded Senators Redfield Proctor of Vermont, J. B. Gallinger of New Hampshire, and G. W. McBride of Oregon, who were not chosen members of the Congressional committee this year.

Besides Chairman Babcock and Secretary Overstreet, the other officers were re-elected, namely: Representative James S. Sherman of New York, vice chairman, and Mr. W. B. Thompson, of Washington, D. C., treasurer.

The trouble is said to be the outgrowth of diametrically opposed opinions, maintained by the two gentlemen on many points of policy of the commission's work.

REPORT ON INDIAN DEPREDATIONS BILL

Committee Cor sents to Eliminate "Citizen" Clause.

Requirements of "Amity" Retained—Matter to Be Argued in the Senate—Objections Raised.

Senator Gamble of South Dakota, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Depredations, has presented to the Senate, in reference to the present law under which claims of the whites are prosecuted in the Court of Claims, a report which is of interest to the Southern States. The subject of the report is a bill introduced by Senator Warren of Wyoming to remove from the law two conditions in the allowance of these claims, viz: That the persons making the loss must have been at the time citizens of the United States, and that the Indians committing the depredations must have been not hostile to the United States, but, as the law states, "in amity."

The committee in this report unanimously recommends that the requirement of citizenship be removed as proposed by the bill. On the subject of eliminating the requirements of amity, the committee have had several discussions and have not been able to recommend an amendment.

Discussion on this point is adjourned to the floor of the Senate, where a number of Western Senators will be heard in advocacy of removal of this condition in the law, which they regard as harsh and unjustifiable discrimination. Friends of the bill believe enough votes can be counted upon to pass it through the Senate, either as it originally read or with modifications, which will exclude only the depredations committed by certain small bodies of Indians of the Pacific Coast who were never in treaty relations with the United States. The interest of the Southern States in the bill arises from depredations of the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws, and Chickasaws in early years while in a condition of hostility to the United States.

Resolved by the Committee on Claims of the House of Representatives, That in the death of Hon. J. S. Salmon, a Representative of the State of New Jersey, the Committee on Claims has met with a great loss in being called upon to part with the services of Mr. Salmon. As a member of the committee he was at all times faithful and earnest in the investigation of all matters presented, and he sincerely testified to his marked ability, his kind, genial manner, and as members of the committee individually, we all feel that we have lost to him a friend, and one who at all times was mindful of the wishes of others, and in this way commanded the respect and confidence of all his associates.

Resolved, as a further mark of respect, That the committee do now adjourn, and that these resolutions be spread upon the records of the committee and a copy thereof be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

The committee then adjourned.

SUPERANNUATED CLERKS TO BE RETIRED ON PENSIONS

Bill Creating a Fund by Deduction From Salaries Introduced in House.

Representative Gillett of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, yesterday introduced in the House, by request, two bills. One was for the retirement of Government employees in the classified service without the cost to the Government, and the other was to prevent superannuation in the classified service and to create a retirement fund for the employees.

The bills differed somewhat in detail, but both have for their object the retirement of all Government employees in the classified service on a pension after a certain number of years of service, the pension to be paid from a fund created by deducting each month a small percentage of each employee's salary.

Bills exactly similar, and which were introduced at length in these columns, were introduced in the House at the opening of the session of Congress. The two were constant and contented he threw out. The majority report is in favor of Mr. Butler, the sitting member.

Minority Report on Election Contest.

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DIRECTS EXTENSION OF STREET RAILWAY LINES

Bill Introduced Requires Route to Be Laid East on Florida Avenue From Seventh Street.

Representative Hepburn introduced in the House yesterday a bill to require the Capital Traction Company to extend its lines by underground electric system east on Florida Avenue from Seventh Street west within one year.

The route of extension is as follows: Florida Avenue to Twelfth Street, east, south on Twelfth Street to Lincoln Park, thence west to Eleventh Street, thence south to and west on North Carolina Avenue, and thence south on Eighth Street to connect with its lines on Pennsylvania Avenue. The bill was referred to the Committee on District of Columbia.

THREE TERRITORIES ASK FOR STATEHOOD

Trusts Mr. Roosevelt.

President Schurman Declines to Serve on Anti-Imperialistic Committee.

ITHACA, N. Y., May 7.—President Schurman, of Cornell University, said tonight he thinks that the United States army will be vindicated as a result of the investigation that President Roosevelt has ordered to be made regarding the alleged atrocities committed in the Philippines, and believes President Roosevelt can be trusted without outside assistance. President Schurman has therefore written Carl Schurz, declining to serve on the committee appointed recently at a meeting held in the Plaza Hotel, in New York. The other members of the committee are Andrew Carnegie, Charles Francis Adams, Wayne MacVeagh, Edwin B. Smith and Herbert Welsh.

After disposing of the conference report on the Indian appropriation bill, the House took up the omnibus statehood bill, which provides for the admission of the Territories of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona as States.

Mr. Knox, the chairman of the Committee on Territories, explained the bill at considerable length. The committee, he said, had unanimously indorsed the measure.

The only question in the minds of the committee, he said, if there was any question at all, was whether any new States should be admitted at this time. If one of these three Territories was to be admitted, all three should be.

The Territories All Eligible. It could not be said, he stated, that because one of them contained a population of 500,000 it should be admitted, while another which contained but 200,000 should not be, for the reason that is the great majority of cases where Territories were admitted to statehood the population had been less than 200,000. The same was true as to wealth and other qualifications.

Each of the three, he argued, was above the average of the Territories heretofore admitted to the Union. The measure, Mr. Knox said, was similar in its provision to the other enabling acts by which new States were admitted to the sisterhood.

He then promised to defend the provisions of the bill at considerable length, and the qualifications of the Territories for statehood. It provided among other things, he said, that Oklahoma should have two Representatives in the House and New Mexico and Arizona each one.

As Part of Oklahoma. Mr. McKee (Dem., Ark.), in arguing in support of the bill, gave notice of an amendment to include the Indian Territory as a part of Oklahoma as one State.

Although there has been considerable talk of uniting New Mexico and Arizona and admitting them as one State, nothing was said in the debate yesterday which would indicate that the committee has given serious consideration to the suggestion. Such a provision is strongly opposed by the people of both Territories, who wish to preserve their own identity.

The bill was further advocated by Mr. Rodey, the delegate from New Mexico. General Kearney, he said, in 1849 promised the people of that Territory a government. This promise Congress later ratified, formally promising to grant it. Since that time forty-six bills had been introduced to grant statehood to the Territory, but definite action had never been taken. Such a case of national neglect and refusal to perform a promise for fifty-six years had never existed in the history of the country.

It was shown during the progress of the debate, which was participated in by Mr. Little, Mr. Sutherland of Utah, Mr. McKee of Arkansas, Mr. Stephens of Texas, and Mr. Sherman of New York, that the Havana Company had already, while operating under a lease, through the Interior Department, located 134 claims.

The amendment proposed to allow them priority in 130 of these. In the case of the Florence Company no claims have been located, but it has made application for a lease.

Mr. Little contended that the leases already obtained had been obtained from the Indians through misrepresentations. He opposed granting any special privileges to any mining company, but thought if the lands were opened up that every one ought to have the same advantage.

The Florence Company. The Florence Company is a New York concern. Postmaster General Payne was formerly its president and Governor Odell of New York one of its officers.

Mr. Sherman and Mr. Sutherland supported the provision, contending that it would do away with the bad system of leasing.

The report was finally adopted by a vote of 97 to 83.

RETIRED OFFICER DEAD.

Capt. William A. Duncan Expires at Falls Church, Va.

Capt. William A. Duncan, U. S. A., retired, one of the most prominent citizens of Falls Church, Va., died suddenly at his home in that town last night, from inflammation of the stomach. He was eighty years old. Funeral services over the remains will be held at Alexandria tomorrow afternoon.

Some years ago his wife died, and he had since made his home with his children. During the civil war Captain Duncan was United States marshal of Alexandria. He was there when John Jackson, proprietor of the Marshall House, on King Street, shot to death Captain Ellsworth of the Zouaves, in the hallway of his hotel, because the officer hauled down the Confederate flag, flying from the top of the historic hostelry. Captain Duncan took temporary charge of the Marshall House after the tragedy, which also resulted in the instant death of Jackson, at the hands of soldiers under command of Ellsworth.

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